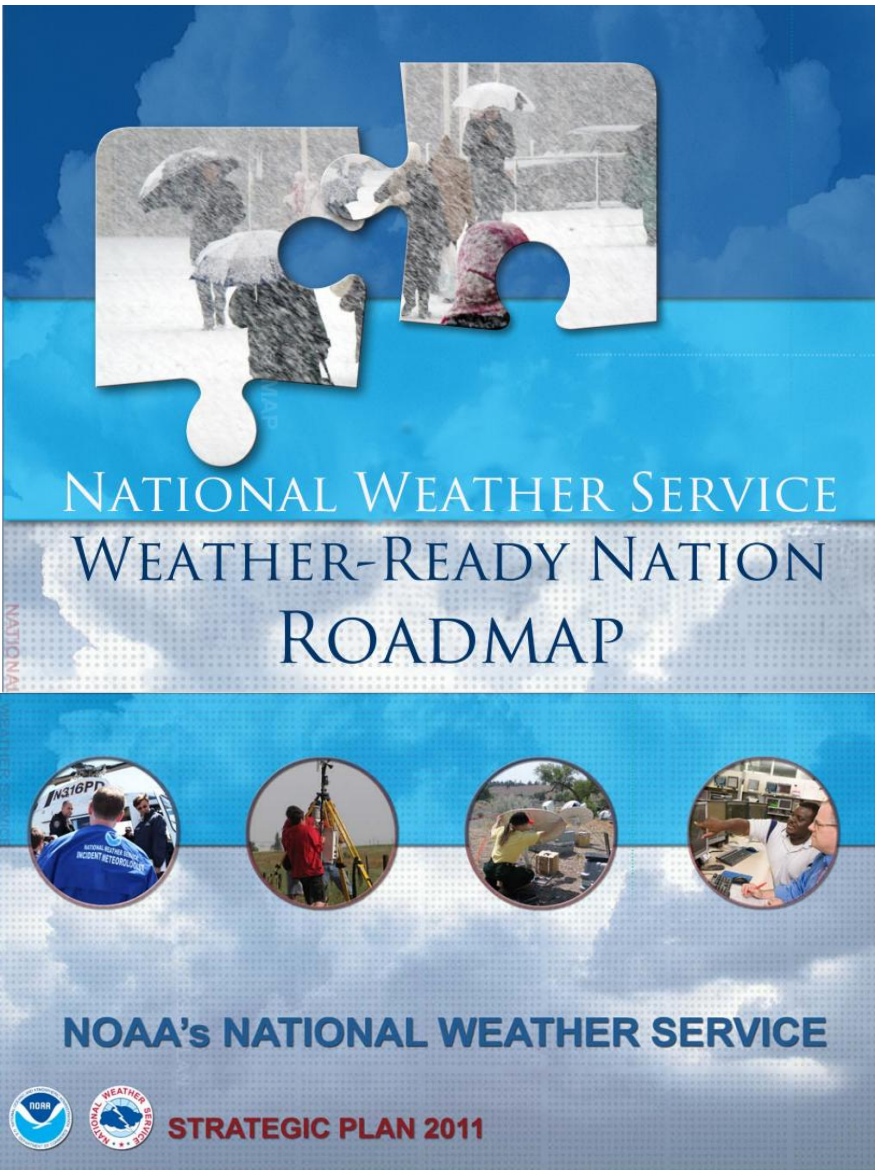


# **Always Working For You**

## **Seamless Impact-Based Decision Support in Hurricanes**

**Barry S. Goldsmith**  
**Warning Coordination Meteorologist**  
**NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas**





# Key Service Points

- Shift to Interpretation and Consultation
- Communicate Comprehensible Forecast/Confidence
- Integration into National Response Framework
- Partner to Improve Communications of High Impact Events
- Deliver Information that Conveys Weather Impact to Support Decision Making/Planning

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>



# Hurricane Allen



Houston

New Orleans

Corpus Christi

Brownsville

August 8, 1980

Time (estimated): 7 PM

Wind: 165 mph (Category 5)

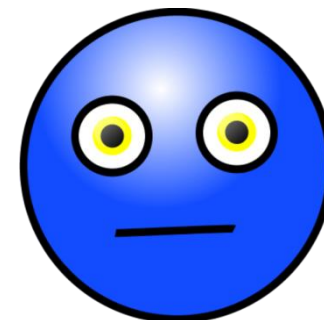
Pressure: 912 mb

280 miles from Mouth of Rio Grande



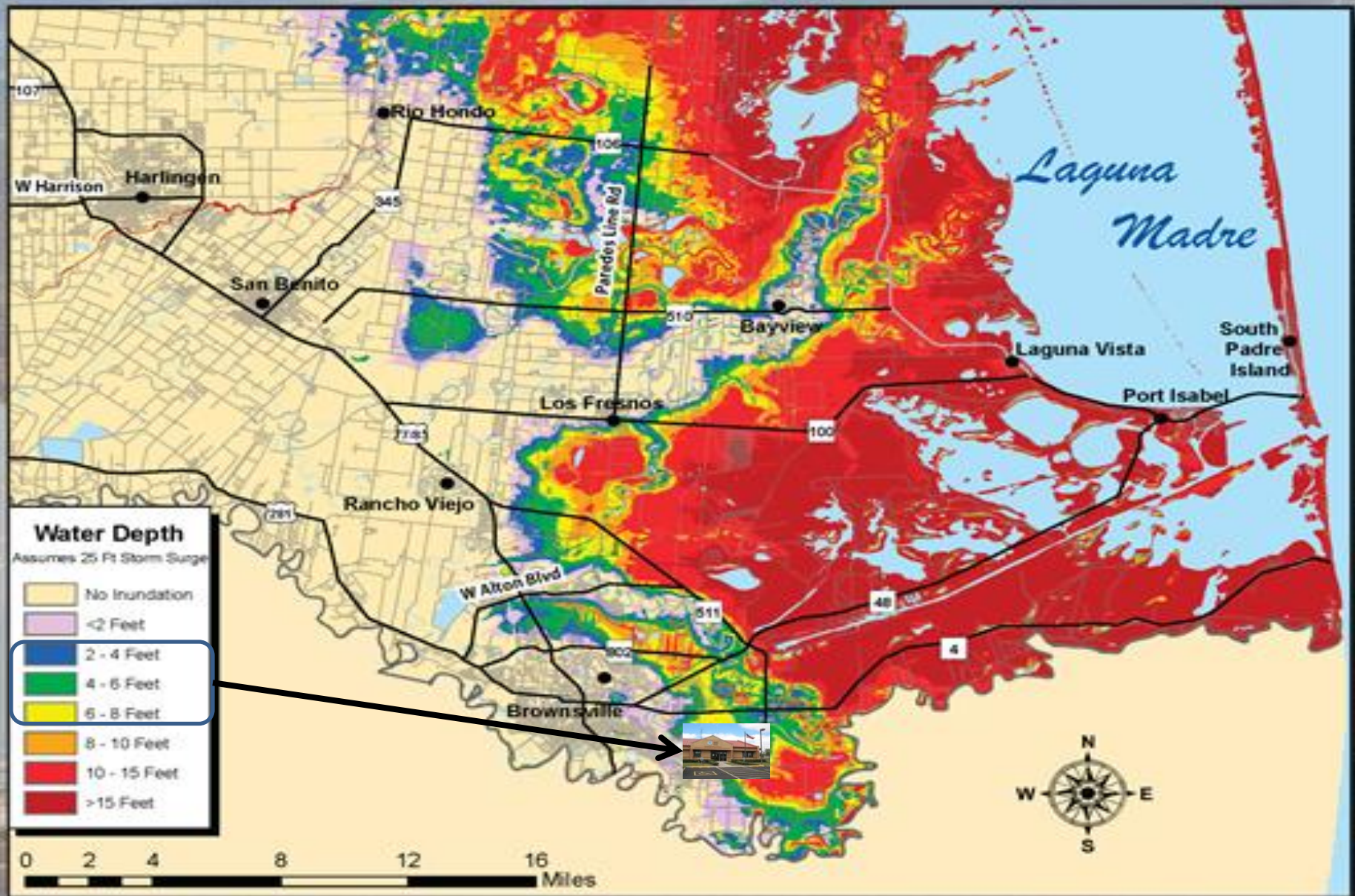
## What if This Were Bearing Down?

- We'd Probably Be Leaving!





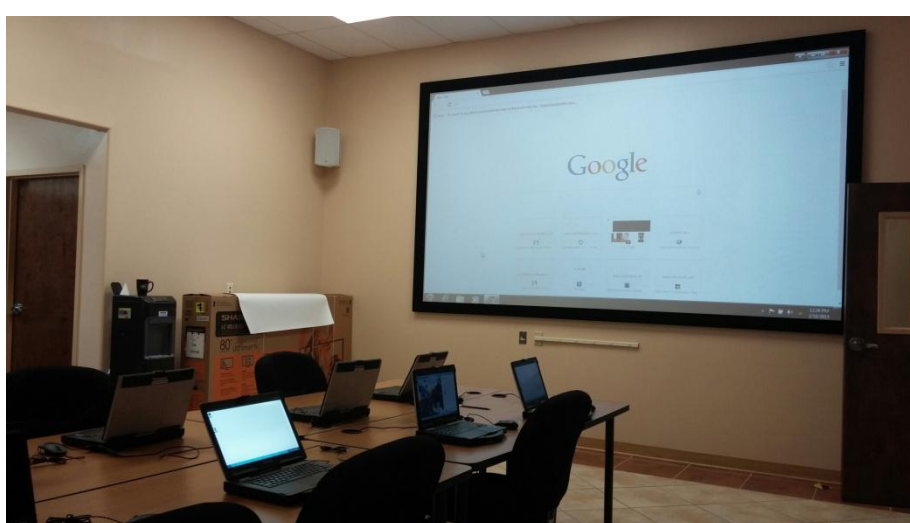
# Coastal Cameron County



This map indicates the height of the water above ground level for a storm surge of 25 feet. Accuracy is +/- 20%.

# Alternate Operating Location Concept

- Continuity-of-Operations (“Coop”) Plan
- Activated If:
  - NWS Brownsville/RGV is Crippled by Man-Made or Natural Disaster (wind, water, fire, bomb)
  - NWS Brownsville/RGV threatened by Cat 4/5 Hurricane (wind) or forecast 22-25’ Storm Surge at coast



Briefing/Staging Area, LRGVDC 9-1-1 Center

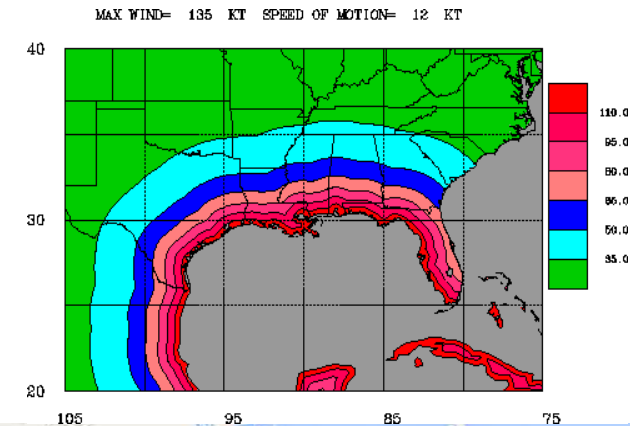


14 days of backup power, LRGVDC 9-1-1 Center

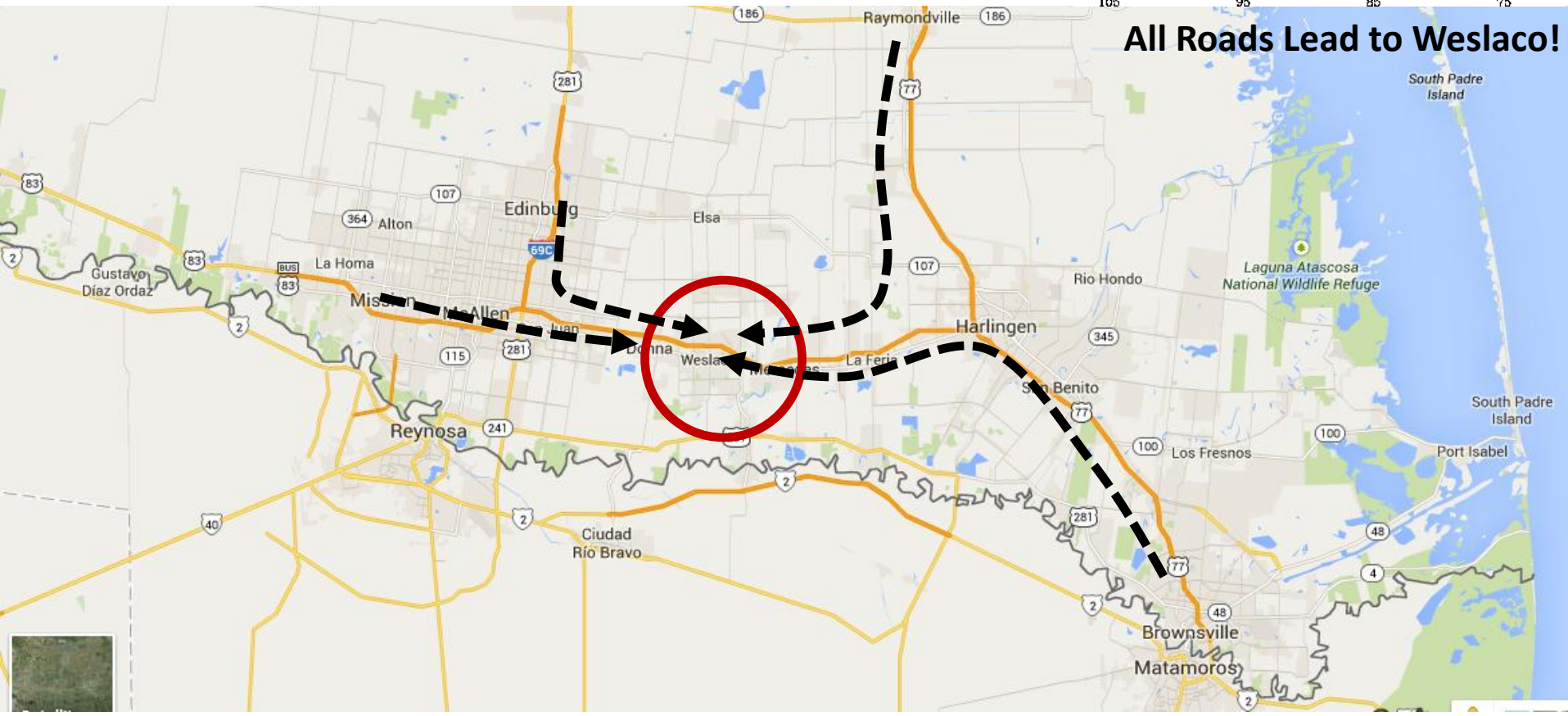


# Alternate Operating Location Concept

- Location, location, location!
- **Weslaco, Texas (“Mid Valley”)**
  - Out of Storm Surge Zone
  - One to Three Categories Wind Decay after Landfall
  - Facilities Built to Withstand 150+ mph wind
  - **30-40 minutes from all Core Partners!**



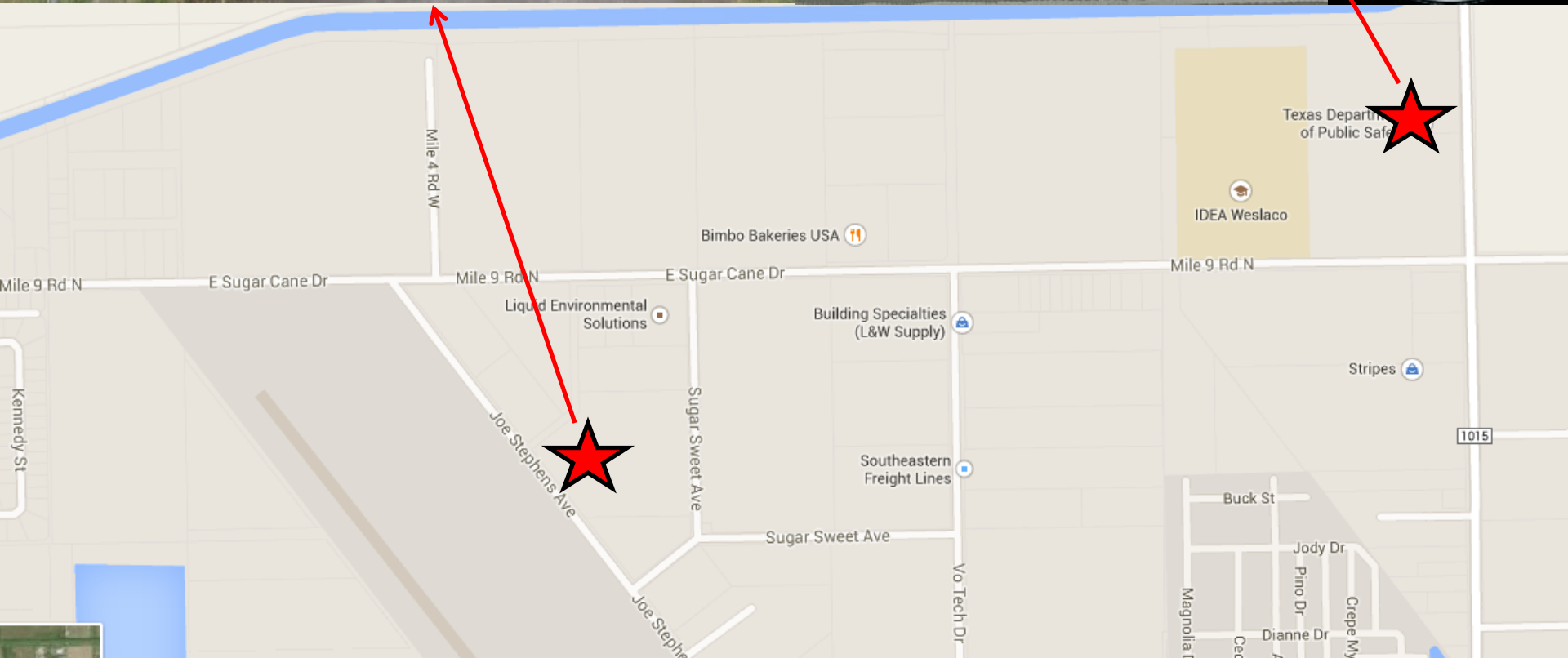
**All Roads Lead to Weslaco!**



# Alternate Operating Location Concept

- Two Locations!
  - Lower Rio Grande Development Center 9-1-1 Center
    - For Crippling Event at/near Brownsville Office (fire, wind, water, bomb)
    - **Potential Backup for Texas DPS Site**
  - **Texas DPS Region 3 Headquarters**
    - For Full Valley Activations
    - **Devastating to Catastrophic Hurricane**







# The Catastrophic Hurricane Plan

## NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley

- Full Office Evacuation (36 to 72 hours Pre-Storm)
  - Families Evacuated, Homes Secured
  - Forecast Teams Deployed To Backup Offices in San Antonio and Lake Charles, LA
    - Routine Functions Continue Before, During, After Impact
  - Impact DSS Teams Deployed **in the RGV** to Texas DPS Region 3 Headquarters
    - Disaster District Committee is Activated Here
    - Specialized Functions and Briefings Before, During, After Impact
  - Office Supervisor and Electronics Leader Remain Until Last Moment
    - Join Other Teams at Some Point While Still Safe to Travel

# Catastrophic Hurricane Alternate Operation Location: Deployment Activity

- Expert Strike Team of Trained DSS Personnel
  - Emergency Response Meteorologists
  - Information Technology Officer
  - Other(s) TBD
- Set Up Remote Operations for Analysis
  - “Thin Client” Software – Allows Team to Look at Data as if in the Office
  - Shared GIS Platform (Under Development)
- Scheduled Briefings and One-on-Ones
  - Media, or Reps, included. If not onsite, 15 minute drive to local CBS and ABC affiliate (largest English language viewership)
- Can Lodge Locally (pre-storm) or Bunk at Site (during storm, post-storm)
- Continued on-site service during recovery, as needed



# How We Got It Done



Captain Jose Rodriguez III, Texas DPS Region 3



Victor Morales, Procurement Dir., Lower RGV Development Council 9-1-1- Center

- **NWS Southern Region COOP Requirement (October, 2014)**
- **NWS Brownsville/RGV Information Technology Officer Worked with Warning Coordination Meteorologist to Define Locations (October, 2014)**
- **Site Visits Completed and Tentative Agreements Reached (November, 2014)**
- **Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) Developed, Finalized (December 2014-January 2015)**
- **Official Signing Ceremonies Completed (Above, February 2015)**



# *Questions?*



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